

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action mailed July 31, 2002. This Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to the issues raised in the Official Action.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al. (US 5,995,108) in view of Lorensen et al. (Computer Graphics, vol. 21, no. 4). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is traversed in view of the above amendments because the step of identifying internal and external features is not taught or rendered obvious by the prior art of record. No new matter has been entered. In addition, no new issues have been raised because Applicant is simply combining original claims 1 and 2 with a clarification requested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 4-13 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting based on the claims of US Patent No. 6,335,732. Claims 2 and 3 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for statutory double patenting with respect to the claims of US Patent No. 6,335,732. Applicant respectfully submits that these double-patenting rejections are rendered moot in view of the above amendments.

In view of the foregoing discussion, it is clear that none of the prior art of record, taken along or in combination, teaches or renders obvious the technique of the amended claims of this


10/032,502

In re SHAIKH

application. It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe additional discussion would advance prosecution of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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10/032,502

In re SHAIKH

APPENDIX OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the ABSTRACT as follows:

ABSTRACT

A method for taking advantage of external recognition to thereby render only those [portions of a] computer generated [object] objects that are [visibly displayed to the user] from any orientation and viewing angle. Internal components and hidden components are omitted from the rendered image. This method applies only to assembly and sub-assembly models and not to individual component models.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 and 4.

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for rendering graphic images, said method comprising the step of:

extracting topological information from a computer generated model;

identifying from said model internal non-visible features that are internal to the model and external visible features that are external to the model;

generating a rendered image comprising only those external visible features of a computer generated model that are visible [from] independent of a user's viewing orientation; visually displaying only said external visible features as said rendered image.

3. (Amended) The method of claim [2] 1, further comprising the step of linking the [interior] internal non-visible features to the [visually displayed exterior] external features.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein hidden components not visible from a user's viewing orientation are omitted from said rendered image.